

CRAMLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
CRAMLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

In the absence of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. James Anderson, on military duties, I have throughout the year acted as his deputy, and have now the pleasure to present this report upon the health of your district during the year ending December 31st, 1915.

Area of District. — 4583 acres.

Population. — At the Census of 1911 the population of the whole district was 8093. It is difficult to arrive at a fairly accurate estimate of the present population. Many men have left the district for active service; while other persons have taken up residence therein, including wives and families of men engaged on home defence service. In my opinion it has not altered much, if any, since the outbreak of war, and the former figure of 8250 may again be taken to fairly represent the present population.

Births. — The corrected number of births in the district during the year was 220. Of these 214 were legitimate and 6 illegitimate. Of this number 113 were males and 107 females. This number, calculated per 1000 population, gives a birth-rate of 26.6 per annum, which is practically the same rate as in the previous year, and 1.0 below the average of the previous 5 years, viz., 27.6. The actual number of births this year is three less than that of 1914.

Deaths. — The deaths registered during the year numbered 130. After correcting this number through the information supplied by the Registrar-General relating to transferable deaths, the nett number of deaths was 134. The death-rate, calculated on the latter number, was 16.2 per 1000 per annum, and is an increase of 1.7 upon that of the previous year.

Infant Mortality. — The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 26, equal to a death-rate at this age period of 118.0 per 1000 births, which shows a reduction of 16.5 upon the figures of 1914.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. — The deaths from zymotic diseases numbered 16, as follows, viz.:—Scarlet Fever (1), Measles (5), Whooping Cough (2), and Diarrhoea (8.) The zymotic death-rate was 1.9 per 1000 population, and compares with 1.8 for the previous year. It will be seen that there is again no deaths from Enteric Fever, which is exceedingly satisfactory.

Phthisis. — There were five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which gives a death-rate equal to .6 per 1000 population—an increase of .2 compared to the previous year; but this rate, although an increased one, may still be considered very satisfactory.

Deaths from Other Respiratory Diseases. — There were 28 deaths from these diseases, viz.:—Bronchitis (17), Pneumonia (9), and two from other diseases such as Bronchiectasis. This gives a respiratory death-rate of 3.3 per 1000 population.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases. — The list of Infectious Diseases notifiable in the district remains as in 1914. Only 49 cases were notified during 1915, as against 128 cases during the previous year—a very gratifying decrease. There were a few cases amongst soldiers stationed in the district, but as these were not notified to me by the military authorities they are not included in the returns. I regret still having to complain of people visiting each others' houses in the presence of infectious disease. The spread of infection is without doubt largely due to this foolish disregard of precaution. No epidemic was prevalent during the year in the district, and there was no closing of schools. A tabulated list of the cases of infectious disease, and the sub-districts in which they occurred is provided on Table II.

Non - Notifiable Infectious Diseases. — Measles were rather prevalent in the district at one period of the year under review, and five deaths resulted from this disease. It is now scheduled as an infectious disease.

Closet Accommodation. — This remains practically the same as a year ago, the only change being that 11 water-closets have replaced a similar number of privy middens.

Scavenging. — During the year 14,476 loads of refuse were removed from ashpits and privies. The method of scavenging the district is substantially the same as a year ago.

Sanitary Inspection of District. — The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended hereto.



PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Slaughter - Houses. — There are now three in the district. One is licensed; the others are neither licensed nor registered.

Offensive Trades; Common Lodging-Houses; Schools. — There is nothing new to report under these heads for the year under review.

Food. — The report of 1914 applies equally to 1915, there being nothing new to report. No case of disease was traceable to the food supply.

Housing. — Nothing new under this heading can be added to the report of 1914.

Workshops; Sanitary Administration of District; Adoptive Acts; Bye-Laws and Regulations; Bacteriological Work. — The condition of your district in relation to these matters remains as shown by your M.O.H. in his report for the year 1914.

Investigation of Diseases. — There was an increase in the number of cases of infectious disease *imported* into your district during the year under review, and extra investigation was consequently necessary.

Disinfection. — This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector after every case of infectious disease. Formaldehyde, vapourised, is the agent used. A number of dirty houses were also disinfected.

Means for Preventing Mortality in Children and Child - Birth. — The Notification of Births Act is in force in the district, and three District Nurses act as Health Visitors. They report monthly to the M.O.H. and to the Council. Their work is well carried out, and has beneficial results.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Housing. — No new houses were erected during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage. — No new sewers were required. Several defective house drains were improved.

Sanitary Accommodation. — During the year, 11 water-closets were substituted for privy middens.

Streets and Roads. — With the exception of slight temporary repairs in a few cases, there is no improvement in the condition of the Back Streets. Plans, Estimates, &c., were prepared and notices issued under the Provisions of the Private Streets Works Act, 1892, in respect of some streets, but owing to existing national conditions the notices were not enforced, and the work has been deferred for the time being.

IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED.

The suggestions and remarks under the above heading by your M.O.H. in his report for 1914 are still applicable.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ROBERT FORSYTH, M.B., C.M.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

February 21st, 1916.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.			Transferable Deaths.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected Numb'r		Nett, Numb'r	Rate.	of Non-residents in the District		of Non-residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age	At all Ages.		Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Rate.
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1910	6850	193	284	82	11.9				21	108.8	82	11.9	
1911	6376	169	169	265	97	15.2	1	5	27	160.0	101	15.8	
1912	8150	234	239	293	92	11.2	4	14	25	106.8	102	12.5	
1913	8250	228	228	276	113	13.6	1	6	37	160.2	118	14.3	
1914	8250	223	223	270	112	13.5	1	9	30	134.5	120	14.5	
1915	8250	220	220	266	130	15.7	2	6	26	118.0	134	16.2	

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 4,583 acres.

Total population at all ages, 8,086.
Total families or separate occupiers, 1,774. } At Census,
1911.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.					
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	West Hartford.	West Hartford.	High Pit, Kilmington, &c., G. Barnidge, &c., Shankhouse.	High Pit, Kilmington, &c., G. Barnidge, &c., Shankhouse.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera, Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous group) ...	12	4	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	4
Erysipelas ...	30	14	13	1	1	1	7	3	15	5	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals...	...	49	1	18	21	5	3	1	8	6	17	6

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, Etc.

Infectious Diseases Hospital at High Pit. During part of the year the Council's Infectious Diseases Hospital has been used as a Military Hospital for the troops billeted in the Council's district.

TABLE III.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year, 1915, classified by age and cause.

TABLE IV.
Infant Mortality.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes	{ Certified Uncertified	4			1	5	8	5	7	1	26
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet Fever											
Whooping-cough											
Diphtheria and Croup											
Erysipelas											
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases											
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)											
Convulsions											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis											
Pneumonia (all forms)											
Diarrhoea											
Enteritis											
Gastritis											
Syphilis											
Rickets											
Suffocation, overlying											
Injury at birth											
Atelectasis		1				1					
Congenital Malformations											
Premature Birth		1				1					
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		2			1	3	3	2	1		9
Other causes											2
Totals		4			1	5	8	5	7	1	26

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of } legitimate Infants, 25. illegitimate Infants, 1

Inspector of Nuisances' Report

For the year ended December 31st, 1915.

	Number.	No. of Informal Notices sent out.	Remedied after Informal Notice.	Statutory Notices sent out.	Remedied after Statutory Notice.	Remarks.
Houses Structurally Defective, and Damp ..	32	28	25			
Defective Spouting ..	13	7	7			
Dirty Houses ..	7	1	7			
Insanitary Yards ..	1					
Back-to-back Houses ..	As per previous reports.					
Overcrowding ..	4	4	4			
Contraventions of Building Bye-laws ..	Nil.					
Back Streets not made up ..	4	4				Temporarily repaired in 3 cases.
Defective Sanitary Conveniences ..	41	39	21			
Insufficient do. do. ..	Nil.		3			
Defective Drainage ..	135	135	132			
Insufficient Drainage ..	Nil.					
Other Nuisances ..	81	81	74			

Other Inspections.	No.	Defects.	No. of Informal Notices.	Remedied.
Inspections of Registered Cow-byres ..	81	9	9	8
" " Slaughter-houses ..	80	3	3	
" " Workshops ..	55	4	4	
" " New Drains ..	17	2	2	

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases dealt with during year ..	49
" " Houses disinfected during year ..	46
New Houses built during year ..	0
Houses rebuilt during year ..	0
Shop converted into house ..	1
Houses converted into Club ..	9
" " Closed during year ..	0
Number of Water-closets substituted for Privy Ashpits ..	11
" " Ash-closets ..	0
Unsound Food Cases ..	0
Insufficient Water Supply ..	0

WM. J. COULSON.

January 6th, 1916.

HOUSING (Inspection of District) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Report for Year 1915.

Tabular Statement as required by Article V.

SUB-DISTRICTS.

	West Cramlington.	Cramlington Village and Station Road.	High Pit and Klondyke.	South Cramlington.	East Cramlington.	Shankhouse,	East Hartford	West Hartford
Number of dwelling-houses inspected	4	37	8				117	
Number considered unfit for habitation	2	2	Nil				9	
Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to Closing Orders being made	Nil	Nil					Nil	
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil	Nil					Nil	
Number of houses closed at end of year	Nil	Nil					Nil	
Number of houses in which defects remedied without Closing Orders being made	Nil	Nil					Nil	
Number of houses put into fit state for habitation ..								

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND:—Defective Spouting (which in many cases is responsible for dampness in walls); Roofs slightly defective (several of these have been repaired); Defective yard paving; Damp walls and walls in need of pointing; Back-to-back houses; Floors of brick quarls; Windows won't open; Low attic bedrooms imperfectly lighted and ventilated; Defective outhouses; Defective fireplaces, Windows, Plaster, Stair rails, and Broken doors (nearly all due to rough usage by occupiers).

Wm. J. COULSON.

January 6th, 1916.

